

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **PERRY HALL'S NEWEST SCHOOL IN 25 YEARS**

The night after my Inauguration in 2010, I addressed the Board of Education about the need to reduce school overcrowding. Working with other elected officials, we secured funding for additions at Hampton and Stoneleigh Elementary Schools in the Towson area. Last year, Councilwoman Cathy Bevins and I obtained a commitment for a new, 700-seat elementary school in the northeast.

The school will be built at county-owned land near Chapel and Joppa Roads. You can see the map at <http://www.bcps.org/news/articles/article8071.html>. This will be the first new Perry Hall-based school in a quarter-century. It will immediately help our elementary schools, where overcrowding has been the most severe.

I have supported a new middle and high school for many years, and this decision advances those goals as well. That's because the Honeygo elementary school site saves the 35-acre King Avenue property for another use. As the parent of a Perry Hall Middle School student, I know we need to move forward with these campuses.



In the last Fifth District newsletter, I discussed my decision to block a 1,100-home development in South Perry Hall. This summer, I opposed another dense project at the Gerst Farm in Perry Hall. We have started the 2016 rezoning cycle, and there are numerous requests to change the development potential of land in Perry Hall. My zoning decisions will largely be based on schools—whether new development yields younger families and the schools they will attend. As the rezoning process unfolds, please stay informed through www.facebook.com/NewNortheastSchools.

WATER PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETE IN CARNEY

Baltimore County is largely finished with the Harford Road water project. Since 2014, utility crews have been installing a 12-inch replacement water line between Cub Hill Road and a point 250 feet north of Joppa Road. The \$3.8 million project should improve the reliability for water service in northeastern Baltimore County. In the spring, the county will resurface the parts of Harford Road impacted by the project.

COUNTY COUNCIL VOTES TO PHASE OUT STORMWATER FEE

The Baltimore County Council voted in November to phase out the Stormwater Remediation Fee, popularly known as “the rain tax,” over the next two years. At that point, stormwater remediation programs will be funded through the regular budget.

TOWSON CIRCULATOR COMMITTEE DEVELOPS PRELIMINARY ROUTES

After several months of discussion, the committee charged with planning a Towson Circulator has developed two preliminary routes: a north-south line that would extend along York Road to connect the Drumcastle Center, Downtown Towson, and Towson Town Center, and an east-west line that stretches from the Kenilworth area to Towson Place. Councilman Marks has asked the Maryland Department of Transportation to fund a pilot program by 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS RENOVATIONS TO TABCO TOWERS

In November, the Baltimore County Council passed a resolution that provides incentives to renovate Tabco Towers. Built in 1976, Tabco Towers includes 400 senior apartments. The resolution allows the complex to remain an affordable housing complex for seniors while providing upgrades to the units.

CHAPEL HILL, OAKLEIGH, KINGSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ADVANCE ON AIR CONDITIONING PRIORITY LIST

Staff for the state Interagency Committee on School Construction have recommended \$500,000 to begin the process for air conditioning Chapel Hill and Oakleigh Elementary Schools. Kingsville Elementary School has also advanced on the priority list. After 2016, these will be the last three elementary schools not air conditioned in the Fifth District. In November, Councilman Marks joined Comptroller Peter Franchot, Senator J.B. Jennings, and County

Executive Kevin Kamenetz on a tour of Kingsville Elementary School.



MERGER STRENGTHENS WHITE MARSH FIRE SERVICES

This fall, two local fire organizations voted to merge—the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company and the Central Alarmers, which provide support during emergencies. The merger strengthens both units. Councilman Marks and Councilwoman Bevins were involved in the negotiations and have supported the construction of a new fire station for White Marsh. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/wmvfc>.

PERRY HALL LIBRARY HONORS “BUDDY” BUTT

Councilman Marks recently joined Senator Kathy Klausmeier and Delegate Christian Miele at a ceremony honoring William J. “Buddy” Butt, the longtime small businessman and community leader who passed away earlier this year. The “mayor of Perry Hall,” Butt helped establish the Perry Hall library in 1963.

